

# THE NORTHERN IRELAND HERITAGE GARDENS TRUST

## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2020

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The Trustees present their report and financial statements for the year ended 28 February 2020.

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting policies set out in note 1 to the financial statements and comply with the Charity's governing document, the Companies Act 2006 and "Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)" (as amended for accounting periods commencing from 1 January 2016)

### Objectives and activities

The Charity's objects are:

- To educate and inform the public about the importance of Heritage Gardens and Demesnes.
- To monitor and preserve the NI Heritage Gardens for future generations.
- The development of greater interest and knowledge of the gardens and gardening in Northern Ireland.
- The continued promotion of the objectives of the NI Heritage Gardens Trust.

The Trustees have paid due regard to guidance issued by the Charity Commission in deciding what activities the Charity should undertake.

### Achievements and performance

In October 2019, the trust held a very successful conference in Kilkenny, where we were very kindly hosted in Kilkenny Castle by The Office of Public Works.

The venue and city offered excellent facilities, as well as interesting opportunities for further sightseeing. As part of the conference we had an enjoyable and very informative tour by the Head Gardener John Delany of Woodstock Gardens, a Kilkenny County Council property.

Overall we have had a successful year with a successful financial outcome. Clearly Covid is having an impact on the Trust, as with most other organisations. However a limited number of meetings have taken place over the last 8 months via Zoom.

While Covid has had an adverse impact on our ability to generate funds, we have very few fixed overheads, and therefore the financial state of the Trust has not been materially affected. The financial future of the trust should not be materially affected by the pandemic, at least for several years to come.

### Financial review

The financial performance in the year was in line with expectations, recording a net income of £5,364.

It is the policy of the Charity that unrestricted funds which have not been designated for a specific use should be maintained at a level equivalent to between three and six month's expenditure. The Trustees considers that reserves at this level will ensure that, in the event of a significant drop in funding, they will be able to continue the Charity's current activities while consideration is given to ways in which additional funds may be raised. This level of reserves has been maintained throughout the year.

### Structure, governance and management

The Charity is a company limited by guarantee.

The Trustees, who are also the directors for the purpose of company law, and who served during the year and up to the date of signature of the financial statements were:

Ms Tracy Hamilton  
Mr Trevor Edwards  
Mr Terence Reeves-Smyth  
Dr Mark Johnston

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## TRUSTEES' REPORT (INCLUDING DIRECTORS' REPORT) (CONTINUED)

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 28 FEBRUARY 2020

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None of the Trustees has any beneficial interest in the company. All of the Trustees are members of the company and guarantee to contribute £1 in the event of a winding up.

### Plans for future periods

Unfortunately the forthcoming conference this October in The Glasnevin Botanical Gardens in Dublin has been postponed until the following year 2021.

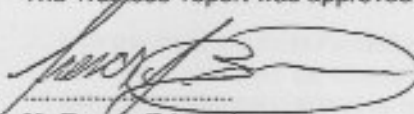
### Risk Management

We acknowledge our responsibility to both identify and manage risks, in particular at committee meetings, and at conference and lecture venues.

The process is as follows:-

1. Identify the hazards;
2. Decide who might be harmed and how;
3. Evaluate the risks and decide on precautions;
4. Implement findings; and
5. Review our assessment and update if necessary.

The Trustees' report was approved by the Board of Trustees.



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**Mr Trevor Edwards**

Director

Dated: ...12/11/20.....